

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 IO-14 PM-07

NSC-10 SAM-01 SS-20 DODE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 OIC-04

EURE-00 /185 W

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O R 071422Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6415

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0798

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJECT: ENERGY: COMMUNITY PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON

ENERGY CONFERENCE -- CONVERSATION WITH SIMONET

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 750

1. SUMMARY. SIMONET HAS TOLD US THA THE COMMISSION IS GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH THE MANDATE FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE ENERGY CONFERENCE. THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE SOME DIFFICULT DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON BUT HE FELT THAT THE EC POSITION WAS GENERAL ENOUGH TO PERMIT A GOOD OUTCOME. SIMONET PARTICULARLY WANTED US TO BE AWARE OF THE FEARS OF SOME DELEGATIONS THAT THE CONFERENCE REPRESENTS A US EFFORT TO GET T\*E INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF US-EC-JAPANESE RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING UNSUCCESSFULLY IN OTHER CONTEXTS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. IN A MEETING FEBRUARY 7 WITH EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET, THE AMBASSADOR REQUESTED HIS REACTION TO THE FEBURARY 4-5 COUNCIL MEETING AND ASKED HOW PREPARATIONS WERE PROCEEDING FOR THE COMMUNITY'S PARTICIPATION AT WASHINGTON. ANSWERING THE LATTER QUESTION FIRST, SIMONET REVIEWED HIS OWN PLANS AND SAID HE WOULD ARRIVE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 10 (NOT ON SATURDAY AS REPORTED IN EC BRUSSELS 770), AND WILL BE AVAILABLE AT HIS HOTEL (THE HAY ADAMS) FROM 4:00 P.M. ON. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CAUCUS OF THE NINE SUNDAY EVENING. (COMMENT: THE WASHINGTON DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION HAS INFORMED THE COMMISSION THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE FOR EC USE A CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL HAVE FACILITIES FOR SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS FACILITY BE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY FOR ITS USE SUNDAY EVENING.)

3. ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SUNDAY EVENING CAUCUS WILL BE THE COMMUNITY'S DRAFT OF THE SUGGESTED CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE. SIMONET SAID THAT WITHIN THE COMMISSION, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING THIS DRAFT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ENERGY DIRECTOR GENERAL SPAAK. SIMONET PROMISED TO LET US KNOW INFORMALLY LATER HOW THESE PREPARATIONS WERE PROCEEDING.

4. TURNING TO THE CONCIL MEETING AND THE MANDATE, SIMONET SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH ATTITUDE, IT  
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COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER. LOOKING BACK TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR A MONTH AGO (EC BRUSSELS 7417), HE FELT THE RESULT WAS "NOT BAD" AND WAS IN FACT A RARE OCCURRENCE -- THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION ON AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL MATTER. IN HIS VIEW, THE MAIN THING WAS TO GET THE FRENCH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, AND THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL

IN THAT. HE SAID HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, MEAN TO UNDER-  
ESTIMATE THE PROBLEMS THAT WILL ARISE AT THE CONFERENCE  
AND FOR THAT REASON IT IS IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO KEEP IN  
CLOSE TOUCH WITH US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

5. SIMONET SAID THE MANDATE IS NOT PRECISE AND THAT IS  
A GOOD THING. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS AS  
IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KEEP IN MIND IN REVIEWING THE RESULTS  
OF THE COUNCIL MEETING: FIRST, THE COMMUNITY IS PREPARED  
TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE CONFERENCE.

6. SECOND, EVEN FRANCE CANNOT REFUSE TO TAKE SOME  
DECISIONS AT THE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL PROMOTE FURTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION. SIMONET SAID THAT  
IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO PAY THE PRICE OF SHIFTING SOME  
OF THE FUTURE WORK ON COOPERATION TO THE OECD OR IMF  
FRAMEWORK, IN ORDER TO ENSURE CONTINUING FRENCH  
PARTICIPATION.

7. THIRD, HE EXPECTS THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL PRODUCE  
AGREEMENT ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH FUTURE TALKS AND HOW  
TO APPROACH THE PRODUCERS. HE QUALIFIED THIS BY SAYING  
THAT WE MAY NOT REACH COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE PRECISE  
METHOD FOR THESE FUTURE TALKS BUT SURELY WE WILL REACH  
AGREEMENT ON THE WORKING PROCEDURES WHICH WE WILL FOLLOW  
TO ACHIEVE THAT AGREEMENT.

8. FOURTH, SIMONET SAID HE WANTED TO DRAW OUR ATTENTION  
TO A SENSITIVE POLITICAL POINT WHICH UNDERLIES THE  
ATTITUDES OF SOME EC COUNTRIES. THIS IS THE FEAR THAT OUR  
EFFORTS TO CREATE AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP, OR SOME  
OTHER MECHANISM FOR FOLLOW-ON WORK, WILL IN FACT BE A WAY  
OF ACHIEVING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF US-EC RELATIONS  
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BY THE BACK DOOR. IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE SEEKING THROUGH  
THE EAG THE RESPONSE WE DID NOT GET TO THE SECRETARY'S  
APRIL SPEECH (OR AS YET FROM THE DISCUSSIONS OF DRAFT DECLAR-  
ATIONS).

9. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT THE QUESTION OF CONFERENCE  
FOLLOW-UP WILL PROBABLY BE THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE.  
HE HOPED THE COMMUNITY'S MANDATE WAS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH SO  
IT DOES NOT FORECLOSE COMMUNITY DISCUSSION OF FUTURE  
COOPERATION; PRESUMABLY SOME KIND OF STEERING GROUP OR  
ADMINISTRATIVE BODY WOULD BE NECESSARY TO ARRANGE FOR  
THE FUTURE COOPERATION -- FOR EXAMPLE, THE MEETINGS FORE-  
SEEN BY THE EC BEFORE APRIL. SIMONET AGREED ON THE  
QUESTION OF FLEXIBILITY BUT RE  
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